Digital Library

*107. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government propose to establish a digital library for documenting traditional knowledge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) The Government is establishing a Traditional Knowledge Deigital Library (TKDL) covering about 35,000 formulations contained in 14 Ayurvedic texts. The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) for 35,000 formulations will be completed by December, 2002.

Urban Development Reforms

*108. DR. T.SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to during radical reforms to make civic bodies self-sufficient and self-reliant;

(b) if so, whether a meeting of Housing and Urban Development Ministers of all States was held in the month of June, 2002 to discuss the urban Development reforms;

(c) if so, the main decisions taken in the meeting; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) In order to make the civic bodies self-sufficient and effective, the Minister of Urban Development & Proverty Alleviation has taken the following initiatives for reforms in the urban sector:—

(i) URBAN REFORMS INCENTIVE FUND

In order to deal with the ever growing urban problems, in the Budget

for the year 2002-2003, an Urnban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF) with an initial outlay of Rs. 500 crore has been set up to provide reform linked assistance to the States. Planning Commission is evolving the modalities for the operation of the Fund.

Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF) will seek to intensify reforms in the following areas:

* Reform of Rent Control Laws and repeal of Urban Land Ceiling Acts.
* Rationalisation of high stamp duty regimes.
* Revision of bye-laws to streamline the approval process for construction of buildings, development of sites, etc.
* Revision of municipal laws in line with model legislation prepared by the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation.
* Simplification of legal and procedural frameworks for conversion of agricultural land for non-agriculture purpose.
* Levy of realistic user charges and resource mobilization by urban local bodies.
* Initiation of Public Private partnership in the provision of civic services.

(ii) CITY CHALLENGE FUND (CCF)

It has also been announced in the Budget 2002-2003 that a City Challenge Fund will be set up as an incentive based grant facility that will support cities to fund transitional costs of moving towards sustainable and creditworthy institutional system of municipal management and service delivery. This Fund will meet the expenses to be incurred by the cities to finance the cost of developing a reform programme and its implementation.

(iii) STATE-LEVEL POOLED FINANCING STRUCTURE

It has also been announced in the Budget for 2002-2003 for setting of a Pooled Finance Development Fund to provide credit enhancement to assist local bodies to access market borrowings on a creditworthy basis through a State level intermediary.

(iv) TAX-FREE MUNICIPAL BONDS

As an incentive for development of municipal bond market in India the Central Government gave fiscal concessions to the investors for investing in municipal bonds.

In the fiscal year 2001 -2002 the Central Government allowed issue of tax-free municipal bounds upto Rs. 200 crores.

In the fiscal year 2002-2003, provisions has been kept for issue of Tax-Free Municipal Bonds upto Rs. 500 crores. All State Government have been requested to sent the proposal for tax-free Municipal Bonds.

(v) PROPERTY TAX REFORMS

Though Property Tax (PT) is the most important tax source of revenue particularly for the municipal bodies of non-octroi States, Guidelines have been issued by the Ministry in 1998 for property tax reforms to all State Government with the objective of simplification and rationalizations of property tax. These measures are in the process of implementation by a number of States like Bihar. Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

(b) No. Sir

(c) and (d) Question does not arise in view of reply to part (b)

Rules relating to advertisements on Doordarshan

†*109. SHRI MATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rules are not being followed in regard to showihg of advertisements on Doordarshan;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to ensure that the rules are implemented fully;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when these are likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.